

Westmeath-Offaly Independent

ATHLONE, CO. WESTMEATH

11th May, 1978

Carlos Andres Escude
St. Anthony's College,
Oxford.

Dear Carlos,
I thank you for your letter which you addressed to me
at Auburn Villas, Athlone.

It did strike a bell in that I was aware that there were families
Parkers and Spollens living in a rural area about six miles north
of Athlone. In fact my father, John Spollen, was a native of that
district. I was also aware that a number of people from that part of
South Westmeath emigrated to the Argentine at one period including
a relative of my own.

When I was about to delve a little closer into the subject of your
letter I found that my brother, John, (who has a deeper knowledge of
family history than I have and to whom you also addressed a letter),
had already come up with more definite details and he will be writing
to you. Sincerely,

J.A. Spollen

Editor.

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"THE HAVEN",
BEECH PARK,
ATHLONE.

18th May, 1978.

Dear Senor Escude,

I was very delighted to get your letter of the 28th April and I found its contents very interesting.

The Spollen and Parker family connection is well established. My cousin Frank Spollen now living at the chapel in Tubberclair, about 6 miles North of this town remembered hearing that three aunts of his married two Parker brothers and a Parker cousin and three families lived in the following places

1. Terence Parker at Lissdoughan.
2. another Parker at Rath.
3. ,, ,, at Kilkenny West.

Paddy Parker worked for many year in Canada and the U.S. He retired as General Manager of the Hodson Bay Trading Company many years ago. He returned and lived out his life in Lissdoughan. I remember him very well.

I have sent copies of your letter to Bro. Coleman Parker; Marist Brother and to his brother Fr. Tom Parker Columban Fathers, Omaha,

Nebraska, United States of America. These men nephews of the Paddy Parker already named will be very pleased to fill you out on all the details.

There is a very old man named Pat Spollen now over 90 years of age living in Brooklynn, New York who is still very interested in tracing family trees. As soon as his exact address comes to hand I shall let you have it. Then you can make contact with him.

Now that you are within hailing distance of your great grand mother's homeland why dont you come over and visit with us. You would be a most welcome guest at my house here. I live alone while my son is away at the University in Galway. Accomodatio will create no problem and I can take by car to the places associated with her family.

Kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Jack Spollen

Jack Spollen.

Carlos Andres Escude.
St. Anthony's College.
Oxford, OX2 6JF.

MARIST BROTHERS

15, MAIN ROAD, TALLAGHT, CO. DUBLIN

23rd May, 1978.

Dear Carlos,

What a pleasant surprise to receive a letter from J.J.Spollen, "The Haven", Beechpark, Athlone, enclosing a letter he had received from you.

Well, I am one of the Parker side of the family. One Helen Parker (now deceased) who was married to a Joseph Parker, who was my uncle, made out a Family tree, which covered about two-thirds of the Parker/Spollen alliance. Just about a month ago, I received the other third, from a J.J.Spollen, of 35, Welwyn Road, Riverside, Conn., 06878, U.S.A. There is also in existence a Chart version of the extended family of Ann Spollen and Thomas Parker, of which union, I am a direct descendant. I am enclosing a copy of this chart and also a typed copy of Helen Parker's work. I have loaned the other document to a cousin of mine, so that it is not to hand at the moment, or I would send you a photostat copy.

J.J.Spollen of Athlone said that he had invited you to his home there. En route to Athlone, I am sure you would like to spend some time in Dublin and, perhaps, make the acquaintance of many of your cousins who live here. I live in a small community of Brothers in Tallaght, a southern suburb of the city, and I would be glad to have you stay with us.

My father and mother are dead and there were three children, myself and my two brothers. My younger brother, Joseph Terence Parker (the same Christian names keep cropping up in the different generations!) was killed in a tractor accident in 1948 and my elder brother, Thomas Patrick, is a Columban Missionary priest, who has spent most of his life working in Japan, but who is now stationed in Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.A. He will be coming to Ireland on 4th July for a month's holiday. He is more travelled than I and

it would be great if you could meet him, as he has met and knows personally many of the Parkers and Spollens. When writing to J.J. Spollen, who sent me the most recent document, I mentioned what a wonderful family re-union we could have if we organized a meeting of all the Parker/Spollen families in Athlone at some future date.

Well, Carlos, I shall be looking forward to meeting you and having you stay with us. Please drop me a card when you have some idea of dates. I wish you every success with your studies.

With every good wish and blessing.

Yours sincerely,

Bro. Stephen Parker

Brother Stephen Parker (Religious name - Bro. Colman)

Mr. Carlos Andres Escude,
St. Anthony's College,
Oxford,
OX2 6JF,
England.



PHONE (01) 505346

MARIST BROTHERS

15, MAIN ROAD, TALLAGHT, CO. DUBLIN

13th June, 1978.

Dear Carlos,

I have some very good news for you. I have identified your Mary-Anne Parker, who was your great-grandmother. She was called Maria Parker. She was born in the family of the Kilkenny West Parkers, her father, Terence, being a Parker from Lisdoughan. If you look up the Parker Family Tree and take the "2nd Edition (The other couple) Mary Spollen and Terrence Parker", Maria Parker and one Joseph Parker should be listed as children of that marriage. Maria emigrated to South America. Terrence Parker did visit America - North or South? I cannot say. It is possible that the Terrence Parker, the second child of Thomas Parker and Anne Spollen, and my uncle, visited with your Mary Anne. It is also possible that her father visited her.

Now the "Tobar" is part of the word "Toberclare", which is the name of our parish - both Lisdoughan and Kilkenny West are in the parish of Toberclare. Tobar itself is the Gaelic for "well". There was a St. Clare in ancient times and it is probable that Toberclare means "The Well of St. Clare". Tower put me off a bit since there is a Tower in Kilkenny West a very short distance from the Parker homestead. Finally, the only connection that we can trace between the Lisdoughan/Kilkenny West Parkers and the Parkers of Rath (Rath is very near Kilkenny West, geographically speaking) is the fact that a third Spollen married the Parker from Rath. These Parkers are connected with a Parker family who live in Mount Temple, a place some miles from Rath, Kilkenny West and Lisdoughan. It is possible, of course, that there was a connection further back.

My very good wishes to Mónica and to your good self. I am looking forward to meeting you both.

Your cousin,

Bro. Colman

MARIST HOSTEL



MOYGLARE ROAD, MAYNOOTH, CO. KILDARE.

12th January, 1983.

Dear Carlos and Mónica,

I was delighted to hear from you and congratulate you on your achievements at Oxford and Yale and on your appointment in the chair of Argentine Foreign Policy. It is a most important position and I pray God that you may guide your countrymen wisely in the years that lie ahead.

I too have received an appointment as Provincial of Ireland. We have an election process. It is a secret ballot and the votes are sent to Rome to the General Council of our Order. They then appoint the person who has been elected. The appointment lasts for three years and there is then a new election when the holder of the office may be elected for a further term of three years. The Congregation is divided into Provinces. A Province may include all the Brothers in any one country or group of countries. Some countries, such as the Argentine, may have more than one Province. It depends on the number of Brothers in that country and, of course, the size of the country. We have about fifty Provinces in all. There are some Districts also. These Districts are areas where the number of Brothers is too small to have a Province. They are governed by a District Superior and are usually the responsibility of one of the Provinces or they may come under the General Administration in Rome. We had a Provincials' Conference in Rome in October. It lasted some weeks. We discussed the state of the Congregation in the various countries and formulated policy. We also made some remote preparations for our General Chapter, which will take place in 1985. The Chapter is held every nine years and, among other things, elects a Superior General and a 15 member Council to assist with the governing of the Congregation.

A little bit of news re the family. Thomas Parker of Kilkenny West died last October, while I was in Rome, R.I.P.

Father Tom's address is:

Rev. Fr. Thomas P. Parker,
Columban Fathers,
310, Adams Street,
Quincy,
Mass. 02169,
U.S.A.

Please give my regards to Mônica and to your good parents.

With every good wish and blessing.

Yours sincerely,

Bob, Colman